

## **Health Committee - February 16, 2000**

(\*The meeting was called to order at 10:03 A.M.\*)

### **CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Good morning. Could we please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Salutation**

Okay, there is no public portion this morning. I guess we'll go right into the Introductory Resolutions.

### **LEG. CARACCILO:**

Madam Chair, may I have Commissioner Bradley come up for a question?

### **CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Yes.

### **LEG. CARACCILO:**

Good morning, Commissioner.

### **COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:**

Good morning.

### **LEG. CARACCILO:**

Just briefly, if you can fill us in on the County's efforts, particularly your department's efforts, in dealing with the West Nile issue; I know there was extensive discussion and presentation at the last meeting or the first meeting of the committee a couple of weeks ago. And in particular -- in particular, I should say that it's been suggested that flood water or salt marsh species may be involved in the spread of the West Nile Virus in the Riverhead area; could you comment on that?

### **COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:**

Okay. Well, let me -- I will do a brief overview, not to repeat everything that was said last week.

For the last few months, we have been meeting regularly on West Nile with Public Works because they're a major part of Vector Control, from the preventive and from the adult control side. And the areas that we're working on are education, to educate communities about vector control issues; surveillance, we're increasing our surveillance. In the past, most of our surveillance for mosquitoes had been on the east and the southern side of the County, we now know that we have issues with West Nile in areas where we haven't had problems with mosquitoes in the past; so we're increasing surveillance on the western side and the northern, if appropriate, part of the County based on where we had problems in the past.

We're increasing our trapping of mosquitoes. We are also reaching out so that we can have early signs of illness in birds, we're reaching out to those people who work with birds on a regular basis. So if they have a sick bird to please let us know because we want to be prepared to know if West Nile is here early instead of later.

The other is horses. The Department of Ag and Markets has been doing some sero surveys of well horses on Long Island to look for possible old infection as well as new infection in terms of West Nile. So we're trying to do a lot of the preventive and early detection work. And Vector Control is working on prevention in terms of the ditching and all the other areas, and they're really the ones in terms of water management; it's unfortunate that they're not here.

We still think that the major vector is Culex which is more a household mosquito. There is some concern out in the Riverhead area. There is Culex out there, it's not there is no Culex, it's not the predominant species. So we will be doing surveillance looking for West Nile in some other times, but we don't know exactly what the vector was out in Riverhead. There has been Aedes That has had Culex in Connecticut and New Jersey, we did not find that here so we don't know. If

you look at studies from other countries, many species of mosquitoes have been known to carry West Nile. Whether they're a competent vector is another story; they may carry it but they may not be able to transmit it to someone else.

We have actually spoken to Plum Island who has been doing research on horses with West Nile and what they have found so far, they have inoculated some horses on Plum Island with West Nile, is that the viremia is not high and it's a short duration. So horses are probably not a major vector for the transmission of disease. Birds are another story, their viremia is higher so that a mosquito -- it's a mosquito to pick up from a bird to transmit to someone else than to pick up from a horse to transmit to someone else.

**LEG. CARACCILOLO:**

Okay. We spoke briefly before the committee meeting started about federal funding that may become available for the study -- and I'm not quite sure, the paper was rather vague today -- about how the President is proposing this funding. But I would encourage the department to perhaps reach out to our Congressional representatives and perhaps see if a pilot program could be established locally in Suffolk County so that we can take care-- take advantage, rather, of some federal resources.

In terms of spring, which is now just a few weeks away, six weeks away, when should we expect the onset of this pest and this problem if it is to reoccur?

**COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:**

Well, we only have one year's experience and it didn't hit Suffolk County until mid to late September. Looking at the cases in the city, it was there, must have been there in July and August. We just don't know. I mean, we start having problems with mosquitoes as early as the spring. If you look at our experience with Eastern Equine Encephalitis, we usually don't have those identifications either late, late July or August, we usually don't have problems early in the spring, it's later. And if this was brought in by the birds and migrating birds, what not, we may say the same thing again; if we're going to see it, hopefully we don't, we won't see it until later in the season.

**LEG. CARACCILOLO:**

Thank you.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

I have a question. Thank you, Madam Chair. Doctor, this is actually a question relating to a Sense Resolution on the next page of the agenda. It's a Memorializing Resolution requesting the State of New York to ban the use of Creosote. In your own professional opinion -- first, if anyone doesn't know what Creosote is, it's basically something that they apply to lumber, if my memory serves me right, that makes it weather proof, water proof, and I believe repels insects. What's your determination on the effects of creosote?

**COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:**

Well, Creosote is a regulated chemical, so that if someone is using it they're supposed to be licensed to use it. And what I have been hearing is that people who are using it are not using protective equipment and under the circumstances that they have to use it, it's almost impossible because of the heat and the water conditions. So there's two types of exposure, one is when you're using the appropriate protective equipment where you should be protected from the effects of Creosote, and Creosote has acute and chronic toxicities associated with it, a lot of problems with skin rashes, there's concerns about carcinogenic potential of it. So there's a concern that many people aren't being protected when they're using it, they're applying this onto wood and they're not wearing the appropriate mask, the appropriate gloves and they're being exposed on their skin, they're inhaling Creosote. So if under ideal situations the exposure would be minimal, but that's not the way it's being used currently. And I don't know what they are, but I know there are alternatives to Creosote in terms of wood preservative that my understanding are they are safer, but I'm not an expert in that area.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Thank you.

**COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:**

Sure.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Legislator Crecca.

**LEG. CRECCA:**

I have a question. I spoke -- and I apologize, I don't have the name with me, I was just looking -- with somebody from the Health Department regarding the research in the sound regarding the lobster die off. They were very informative and what they did tell me was -- I was really specifically asking about the \$50,000 that the Legislature had allocated, and I was informed that that money would go to -- as part of an overall plan to work with DEC, to work with the State, I should say, on a comprehensive program.

**COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:**

Right.

**LEG. CRECCA:**

My understanding is they are meeting I think it was today with the state; is that correct, do you know?

**COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:**

I know it's this week, I'm not sure on the exact day.

**LEG. CRECCA:**

All I really wanted to ask, cause we really -- I got the information I needed from that person, can get a report back from that person as to what determinations have been made as to what the plan is going to be and what Suffolk County's role is going to be in that? There's been a lot of inquiry in my district, especially the northern parts of Smithtown, regarding this and I would like to be able to follow up with it.

**COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:**

Okay.

**LEG. CRECCA:**

So if we could just -- I don't remember the name of the person, I apologize.

**COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:**

Is it Vito Minei?

**LEG. CRECCA:**

Who is it?

**COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:**

I think it was Vito Minei.

**LEG. CRECCA:**

It was Vito, okay.

**COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:**

Yeah, because you called me and I had you call -- I had him call you back.

**LEG. CRECCA:**

Thank you very much for that.

**COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:**

Sure.

**LEG. CRECCA:**

And he was very informative. And if you could just ask him to maybe get a memo over to my office or to the Health Committee members to follow up on that, I would appreciate it.

**COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:**

Absolutely, sure.

**LEG. CRECCA:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Thank you.

**COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:**

Sure.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Much easier this time, right?

Okay, the agenda.

### **Introductory Resolutions**

**IR 1080-00 (P) - Renaming the South Brookhaven Family Health Center East at Shirley the "Marilyn Shellabarger South Brookhaven Family Health Center East at Shirley" (Foley).**

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Motion, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Do we have a second?

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

On the motion. Legislator Foley, could you just give a very brief background of Marilyn?

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Sure.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

I'm sure she's worthy of this honor, such as we did with Elsie Owens up in the North Brookhaven.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Right.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

So if you could just give a quick overview.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Sure. As the resolution describes but to say it for the record, Marilyn was one of the founders of our network of health centers in Suffolk County. Many years ago when a number of studies were undertaken to look at the public health needs of

the County, a basic decision had to be made at that time, and through time it was a very wise one, they had to make a decision on whether to have a County hospital like NCMC or to have, because of our unique geographic configuration, to have a series of geographically placed health centers that would work cooperatively with our community hospitals. Marilyn and a number of others, Elsie included, who were part of that task force that was put together by then County Executive H. Lee Dennison, made a determination that the Health Center Network would be the best approach to take. So from that time to this, she has been one of the most eloquent, articulate, passionate advocates for public health in this County.

And I just have to remind particularly the newer members of the Legislature, several years ago there was a move afoot by some through a Blue Ribbon Panel whose -- I won't say whose motives were questioned, but there was a real potential for a dismantling of the health center network. And Marilyn, John Foley, Elsie Owens and a number of other advocates came to the fore, had attended a series of public hearings where hundreds and hundreds of people had attended to advocate again and to defend and to show the need to continue with our health centers.

So for all of those reasons, but in particular in the South Brookhaven which is the area that Marilyn lives, where she has been a member of the health council, South Brookhaven Health Council since its inception, we just thought it would be appropriate to name one of the South Brookhaven Health Centers after her. And I had spoken with Fred Towle, since this particular health center is in his district, and he readily agreed and became a cosponsor.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

I am satisfied.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Okay. We can go on, but that's a fundamental description of her huge contribution to public health in this County.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Thank you. I second it.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

All in favor?

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Aye.

**LEG. CRECCA:**

Aye.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Opposed? Okay, **passed (Vote: 5-0-0-0).**

The second Introductory Resolution, **IR 1081-00 (P) - Adopting Local Law No. , a Local Law to establish animal rights Advocacy Policy (Fisher).**

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Motion to table pending public hearing.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Second.

**COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:**

Can I make a comment on that?

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Sure.

**COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:**

And I would like Counsel to comment on this. When we looked at this, it appears to us that unless we change or discuss what type of animal shelter we're talking about, this resolution would not allow this advocacy panel to have oversight over municipally owned animal shelters, which I think would be an intent to do that. I think we were concerned about animal shelters run by the town and I think with the way this is worded, it doesn't cover those.

**MR. SABATINO:**

That's correct.

**COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:**

And I think the intent is to have us look at town animal shelters as well as privately owned?

**MR. SABATINO:**

I would have to speak to the sponsor.

**COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:**

Okay.

**MR. SABATINO:**

I thought the answer was no, but I would defer to her. It's a valid point, though.

**COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:**

Okay.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

That's why we have the committee system, right?

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

So would we table it to ask the sponsor to readdress this issue?

**LEG. FOLEY:**

You have to table because of public hearing, too.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Okay. So can we have a motion to table this?

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Motion to table.

**LEG. CRECCA:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

All in favor? Opposed? It's passed, **motion is tabled (Vote: 5-0-0-0).**

**IR 1096-00 (P) - To implement RFP Committee process for Underinsured Prescription Drug Program (Binder).**

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Motion.

**LEG. CRECCA:**

Second.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

On the motion. Madam Chair, if I could ask the Commissioner, Health Commissioner.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

You probably should just stay there.

**COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:**

Yeah, I think I will.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Your thoughts, Commissioner?

**COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:**

Five years ago I would have -- this was a major concern for the uninsured in Suffolk County, because there's such a large contingent of uninsured. There are now two programs that make the need for this less, although it's still there.

Child Health Plus; now all of the uninsured kids in Suffolk County can join Child Health Plus and they have pharmaceutical benefits. Family Health Plus hopefully will be implemented in 2000 or 2001; and similarly to children, adults who join Family Health Plus will have pharmaceutical coverage. Now, not all uninsured adults can join Family Health Plus because there is an income cap, it's somewhere around 25,000. So there are still many people who are uninsured who make over 25,000 who will not have comprehensive insurance, including pharmaceutical coverage.

Now, one of the areas when this was discussed in committee last year was the Medicare population, but I think they're excluded from this RFP process, is my understanding when I read it, they're excluded, so this is only for non Medicare people. So the number of people that are in need has shrunk with Child Health Plus and Family Health Plus.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Through the Chair, to Counsel, do we know why the Medicare portion was taken out or not included in this resolution?

**MR. SABATINO:**

People covered by Medicare would not be covered by this resolution the theory behind the sponsor's thinking was that there are several proposals at the federal level that are pending which would address prescription drugs through the context of federal legislation. The thought was there are limited resources, try to target them to those places that are less likely to get help someplace else.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Okay.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Okay. Do we have a motion?

**LEG. CRECCA:**

There is a motion already before you.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Second?

**LEG. CRECCA:**

I seconded it.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

All in favor?

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Aye.

**LEG. CRECCA:**

Aye.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Opposed? **It passes (Vote: 5-0-0-0).**

**IR 1126-00 - Amending the 2000 Suffolk County Adopted Budget and transferring funding for the Breast Cancer Patient Navigator Program from the Office for Women to the Department of Health Services (Postal). Can I just ask?**

**COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:**

Sure. There are two partnerships, one is the Women's Health Partnership run by the Health Department, one is the Breast Health Partnership run by Women's Services.

When this Patient Care Navigator Program was started it was started within the Health Department, and with the 2000 budget preparation process it was mistakenly put in Women's Service and not in the Health Department, so it's just moving it.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Okay.

**LEG. CRECCA:**

Motion.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Any other discussion on it?

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Second the motion to approve.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

All in favor? Opposed? **That passes (Vote: 5-0-0-0).**

### **Introductory Sense Resolutions**

**Sense 5-2000 - Memorializing Sense Resolution requesting the State of New York to ban the use of Creosote (Tonna).**

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Motion.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Second?

**LEG. CRECCA:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Okay, all in favor? Opposed? **Passed (Vote: 5-0-0-0).**



**Sense 7-2000 - Memorializing Resolution requesting the State of New York to continue funding for La Union Hispanica in Suffolk County (Postal).**

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Should this more -- Madam Chair, should this more appropriately be handled in the Social Services Committee as opposed to the Health Committee.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Yeah, I don't know this was prime. Paul?

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Are we prime?

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Is Social Services prime, Paul, or is the Health Committee prime?

**MR. SABATINO:**

Social Services was prime.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Motion to defer.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Second the motion to defer.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Okay, all in favor? Opposed? **Deferred to prime (Vote: 5-0-0-0).**

**\*\*\*SEE CHANGE IN VOTE ON PAGE 13\*\*\***

**Sense 10-2000 - Memorializing Resolution requesting the Federal Government to postpone upgrading at Plum Island Animal Disease Center (Caracciolo).**

**LEG. CARACCIOLO:**

Motion.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

All in favor? Opposed? **Passed (Vote: 5-0-0-0). Okay.**

**LEG. FOLEY:**

I understand Legislator Caracciolo might be opening up a district office over on Plum Island.

**LEG. CARACCIOLO:**

Actually, the health department, not I. Along those lines though, Commissioner, what -- we have a meeting, as I think you are aware of, Friday with Plum Island officials. What has transpired since our initial meeting with them back in November, early December?

**COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:**

Well, one area that we've pursued is the Biosafety Committee that Dr. Zaki, who retired, was on that committee. And right now we have reached out, are reaching out to them to get another -- so that we can have another representative, because

Dr. Zaki is no longer with us to work on that committee. Now, my understanding from him is this committee was more an IRB, an Internal Review Board, so that if a new proposal was being considered or a new study was being considered, the individual people on the committee would review it often by memo and not by sitting down directly; Dr. Zaki said the last time there was a meeting was several years ago.

**LEG. CARACCILO:**

Wow.

**COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:**

So it may be more appropriate, especially at this point, that it be more an active meeting than just through the mail type meeting.

**LEG. CARACCILO:**

And what was the genesis of this group and was it initiated by the County or by the Plum Island officials?

**COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:**

Evidently, and I wasn't around then, there was also concern about Plum Island and what they were doing in the past. And similar to what is going on now, they said there should be some oversight or involvement of the Health Department and that's how Dr. Zaki was chosen to go to this committee.

**LEG. CARACCILO:**

Okay. Was that a County initiative, this committee?

**COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:**

I don't know. I don't know, that was under Dr. Harris and I just don't know what the -- I could find out.

**LEG. CARACCILO:**

Could we try to find out?

**COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:**

Yes.

**LEG. CARACCILO:**

Okay, by Friday so we can reinstitute this group and make sure they do meet regularly.

**COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:**

Right.

**LEG. CARACCILO:**

Okay, thank you.

**COMMISSIONER BRADLEY:**

Sure.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Thank you. Okay, for the record, we have been informed that **Sense 7-2000 is prime here.**

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Madam Chair, I will make a motion to reconsider the deferral motion. I'll make a motion to -- well, to reconsider as the first motion in order.

**LEG. CRECCA:**

Second.

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Are we prime?

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Yes.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

We are.

**LEG. CRECCA:**

So we're making a motion to reconsider.

**MR. SABATINO:**

I just double checked, I was looking at the wrong sheet.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

First we have to reconsider it.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

All in favor?

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Aye.

**LEG. CRECCA:**

Aye.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Okay, opposed? Passed.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

So carried. Madam Chair, I make a make a motion to table.

**LEG. CRECCA:**

Second it.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Just for the record, Madam Chair, I'm tabling the motion to speak with Legislator Postal. I know that there is some effort under way to find out whether or not there is another contract agency that can fulfill the same mission as La Union. So I'm certain in the near future we'll have an answer one way or the other, so if we could table it in the meantime.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Okay, thank you. All in favor?

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Aye.

**LEG. CRECCA:**

Aye.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Opposed? **Sense 7 is tabled (Vote: 5-0-0-0).**

Thank you. Any other business?

**LEG. CARACAPPA:**

Motion to adjourn.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Hearing none.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Second the motion.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Okay, we are adjourned. Thank you.

(\*The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 A.M.\*)

**Legislator Ginny Fields**

**Chairperson, Health Committee**